

# The Acorn



Just for Kids...  
(of all ages)



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Animal Wisdom



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Do you have a favorite kind of animal? Maybe one that you think about a lot, one you've learned about in school, one you see sometimes when you are outside, one you'd like to be, one you have as a pet...or one you just plain like? Do you have dreams about animals, or think that you are very much like a certain one? Maybe while the weather is colder & you spend more time indoors, you could learn more about "your" special animal...or explore several, & discover one that might be especially connected with you.

In many cultures (different places in the world, where people do things in their own ways), people believe that certain animals carry a special meaning with them...that if you see one or dream about it, it might be bringing you a message. Even in places very far away & different from each other, people sometimes believe the same kind of thing about an animal. Some of the meanings come from the way the animal looks or behaves, or from the stories that have been told about it for years & years.

## Imbolc 2002

### **In This Issue:**

Animal Wisdom	1
Coloring Pages	3
Kidspirations	4
Crafts by Starlite	6
The Fox's Den	8

Many Pagans feel a close connection with animals - they pay attention to the animals that appear in their dreams, notice the ones they

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see around the places they live or visit...some even choose names that honor an animal they feel very close to, or want to become more like. If you want to be called by the name of an animal special to you (I know people named Crow, Raven, Bear, Otter, Butterfly, Sparrow, Kat, Chameleon, Hawk, & Praying Mantis), you will want to learn about the animal first, to make sure this name seems to fit you well. Some people also add words to describe the animal like Gold Fox, Sky Dog (which I am told is really a Native American way to say "Horse"!), Dark Wolf, & Greyraven.

Whether choosing an animal name or studying an animal to see why it seems important to you, learning more about it can be exciting & fun. Some good places to look for information are: library books, Ranger Rick magazine, on the Internet, & in encyclopedias. Try the Quiz below & see what you already know about animals & what many people think they mean. Then, if you want to learn more - find a good book (or study the animal itself, if you can) to get started on making your "Animal Education" a good one!



### Do You Know Your Animal Meanings?



Match each animal below to the meaning that it often holds in folk tales & beliefs. (Answers on Page 34 of *The Oak Leaf*)

- |           |                            |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| 1. Dog    | A. Strength & Patience     |
| 2. Raven  | B. Playful Curiosity       |
| 3. Horse  | C. Freedom & Movement      |
| 4. Bear   | D. Loyal Companionship     |
| 5. Fox    | E. Mystery & Independence  |
| 6. Cat    | F. Wisdom, Facing Fear     |
| 7. Otter  | G. Vision & Memory         |
| 8. Coyote | H. Needed Chaos, Messenger |
| 9. Hawk   | I. Cunning & Invisibility  |
| 10. Snake | J. Stealthy Trickster      |



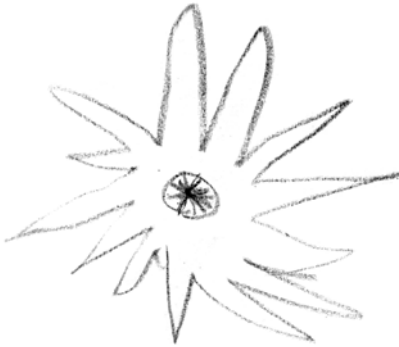
# Celebrate Earth Day!

April 22,  
2002





**\*\*\*Kidspirations!\*\*\***

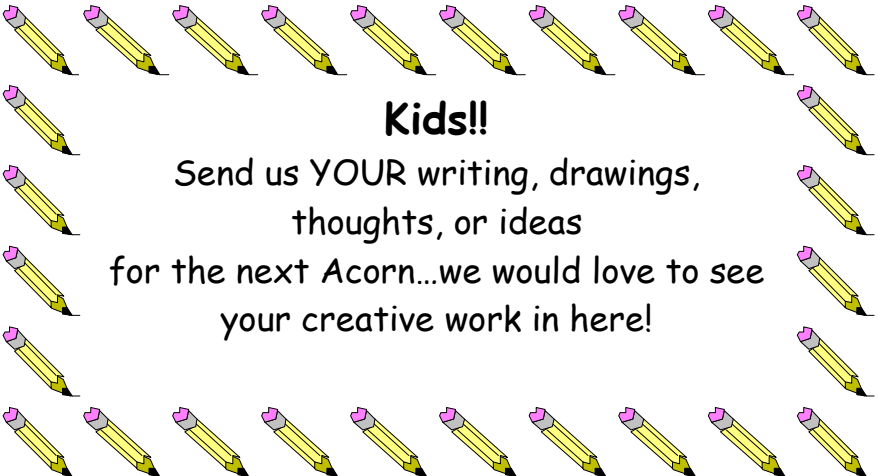


"Star"



"Two Stars"

Killian, Age 3, of Akron



**Kids!!**

Send us YOUR writing, drawings,  
thoughts, or ideas  
for the next Acorn...we would love to see  
your creative work in here!



## Dragon Rhymings

By Dragon, Age 10, of Akron

### Snake

This poem is about Snake  
who eats steak  
which gave him a toothache  
then turned into a real bad headache  
and then a backache  
then he drank a milkshake  
which made an earthquake  
then came a really big shake of fruitcake  
then the snake awakened  
and it all was gone.

### Our Nation

People make creations  
and some own dalmations  
some work at the station  
even the fire station  
some work for a foundation  
some people learn elation  
or even elevation  
so here's my illustration  
on my poem Our Nation.



## Crafts by Starlite ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



### Imbolc - February 2nd



Imbolc is sometimes called Candlemas. Some Traditions set aside this day to make candles for the upcoming year. Even if you don't make your own candles, you can make special candleholders!

#### Decorated Glass Candleholders

You can use a strong glue to glue things onto a plain glass holder. Jewelry glue works well, like Alene's tacky glue (at craft stores). Silicone-based glues should be used in a well-vented room!

- \*Glass paint pagan designs on the holder: a pentagram, spiral, or even a goddess symbol.
- \*Glue various things to the outside: small gems, ribbons, ribbon flowers, or charms.
- \*Glue tissue paper in a collage-type pattern.
- \*Tie ribbons around the holder, & add flowers, charms, gems or whatever!
- \*Cinnamon sticks tied on with raffia make a beautiful fall candleholder - use dried flowers for a springtime one.
- \*Fabric can be glued onto holder also. Cut it to fit & use tacky glue or fabric glue such as Alene's. Okay to wash it, too!



### Lupercalia - February 15th



This is a Roman holiday for fertility and love, celebrating the love for partners (like husband and wife), parents, and friends! Many other cultures celebrate this holiday one day earlier as Valentine's Day. Around this time we see Cupid, who is



the son of the goddess Venus. Cupid is said to have arrows of love, once you are hit by these arrows you will fall in love. The heart shape is a Norse love rune! How Pagan!!

So for Lupercalia, why not make some wonderful things for the special people you love? Some of these ideas (great for Mom or older sister) would work really well for Mothers' Day, too!

## Scented Cream or Lotion

*Unscented Cream, Lotion or Baby Oil*  
*6-10 Drops of her favorite Essential Oil*

Just add Mom or Sister's essential oil to the cream, lotion, or baby oil. You can put this into a pretty bottle if you want, or leave in bottle it came in. Add some pretty ribbon and/or ribbon flowers to make the bottle special. You could also make a special label for the bottle, with her name on it. (I know someone who loved a gift like this just cause it was sandalwood...)

## Bath Salts

*1/3 cup Epsom Salts*  
*1/3 cup Sea Salt*  
*1/3 cup Baking Soda*  
*6 to 10 drops of her favorite Essential Oil*

Mix together, then add to pretty bottle or jar. You can buy one, or use the Imbolc Candleholder Ideas to make one. The longer you let the salts sit, the stronger they will smell.

Some Recipe Suggestions -

Calming: Chamomile, Jasmine, Rose, Lavender

Relaxing: Orange, Lemon, Peppermint, Rosemary





## The Fox's Den



Dreary Weather...rainy days turning to snowy days turning to rainy days once again. February, March, & April are just full of the kind of weather that means "time to stay indoors".

Staying inside may not seem exciting to some of us...but if we're smart, we can use that "inside time" to make wonderful things happen...the kind that never seem to get done when the weather is warm & we are outside in it a lot. Look around your den...um, your room, I mean. Has it always looked the same way ever since you can remember? Did you ever think of doing something different with it...maybe just a little, or completely, from top-to-bottom? This could be the perfect time for it! You might talk to Mom or Dad about changing something in a big way - painting, wallpapering, maybe different furniture - but those kind of changes can cost money, so you may be told "No", or "Not right now, we can't". Don't give up...read on!

Keep in mind that there are MANY things you can do that don't cost a thing...& they can make you feel very different about the space you live in! Just rearranging the furniture can change the way a room looks or feels, a lot. It can seem bigger & more open, or somehow "older"...if your room has looked the same for a very long time, you ARE older than you were - maybe changing things around would help it "grow up" to where you are now! Another thing that can create more space for who you are becoming - clean out drawers & closets. You may find things you lost, that you've really hoped to find, or find things that no longer fit or just don't suit you anymore - your body grows, your tastes change...you could find out how to donate the things you've outgrown to a good cause. Many schools, churches, or shelters for homeless people are often very thankful for exactly the types of things that might be under your bed or in your closet, no longer in use. You can help someone else & make yourself feel great about your personal space, all at the same time!

**Keep Warm, & Happy Denning!**

